

COMMENTS ON THE N4 "UPGRADE"

29.5.2009

Editor

Westmeath Examiner

Environmental Section

Dear Editor,

Could the following comment be included in to article submitted to you today 29th May by Katie Johnston on the subject of the "upgrading" of the N4.

Thank you very much.

Richard Murphy PRO
Westmeath Environmental Group

COMMENTS ON THE N4 "UPGRADE" –

The Consultation process (so-called) seems to consist of the engineers drawing lines on the map and then waiting to see which meets the least resistance (i.e. the route with the smallest population).

The final date for submissions (June 5th) is unhelpful, unnecessary and purely arbitrary. It clearly indicates the attitude of the N.R.A. to public participation – make it as difficult as possible, then ignore those who still persevere and label them as 'awkward' and 'nimby'. A date in September would be open, honest, helpful and serious.

Submissions are to be put in without sight of the E.I.S. or indeed any proper hydrological, ecological or impact studies. People are being asked to confirm a choice (not theirs) on less than minimal information. This is also true for archaeological information.

The traffic studies are inadequate, being out of date.

The existing road is obviously the perfect route and should be persisted with. This would ensure no intrusion on S.P.A. (Owel) and S.A.C.s, and no contravention of the County Development